MARVEL REMEMBERS

Keith Giffen

1952 - 2023

Marvel Comics pays tribute to writer and artist Keith Giffen. The co-creator of Rocket Raccoon, Giffen wrote the *Annihilation* event series and a sequel spinoff *Annihilation: Conquest – Star-Lord*, which would pave the way for a Guardians of the Galaxy revival. His first published artwork appeared in "The Sword in the Star" featured in *Marvel Preview*, which included Rocket's first appearance. He moved into more mainstream titles with *Defenders*, penciling the infamous non-team during some of its most nontraditional storylines. Giffen had a strong body of work at DC Comics, with *Legion of Super-Heroes*, *Justice League* and his irreverent creations Ambush Bug and Lobo. Our thoughts are with his fans, family, friends, and loved ones.

I TRUST YOU HAVEN'T DRIVEN ME UP THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS FOR A FAKE ROMANTIC GETAWAY?

ALL THAT BEAUTIFUL MYSTERIUM METAL I NEED IS UP IN SPACE. AND WE NEED A RIDE, SO I CALLED IN A FAVOR.

TSK.

WON'T OUR ABSENCE BE NOTICED BACK AT THE HELLFIRE CLUB?

YES, BUT I HAVE A PLAN FOR THAT.

TONY STARK, I AM *V'CHUN*, AND THIS IS MY SERVANT, *N'DAK*.

WE ARE RONIN, AND WE SERVE ONLY THE COIN.

YEAH, YEAH, BUT I HAVE TO GO GET YOUR PAYMENT.

KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING. BE BORING. AND WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T DRAW ANY ATTENTION TO YOURSELVES.

I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T TAKING ON RISK.

FEAR NOT. THE INTERMEDIARY WHO ARRANGED OUR HIRING HAS TOLD US ALL ABOUT YOU.

YOUR MAIN TRAITS ARE VANITY AND THAT YOU'RE BOTH EGOTISTS--

EXCUSE ME?

WELL, WE'RE RUNNING LATE. BETTER JUMP.

WATCH YOUR EAR THERE, NON-UNION TONY STARK.

AFTER THE NONSTOP ORDEALS OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THAT POOR SKRULL CAN HAVE MY LIVES AS THE WHITE QUEEN, EMMA FROST AND HAZEL KENDAL.

IF WE'RE SUCCESSFUL--*WHEN* WE'RE SUCCESSFUL--YOU CAN BE ANYONE YOU WANT WHEN THIS IS OVER, EMMA.

SHE COULD BE ANYONE ELSE, BUT WHY WOULD SHE WHEN SHE IS ALREADY A VISAGE OF BEAUTY PERFECTED?

EMMA, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ONE OF MY OLD AVENGERS TEAMMATES--

--STARFOX!

THIS WILL SETTLE *OUR* DEBT, BUT YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THE SKRULLS' TIME, AND THEY'RE EXPENSIVE.

AND EASE OFF THE GAS, EROS. SHE'S A MARRIED WOMAN. NOW--

--LET'S GO GET *RICH!*

WHEN MULTIBILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST TONY STARK, INVENTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE, DONS HIS SOLAR-CHARGED, STEEL-MESH ARMOR, HE BECOMES A HIGH-TECH WARRIOR–THE WORLD'S GREATEST HUMAN FIGHTING MACHINE!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS...

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

"THE MYSTERIUM MARAUDERS"

PREVIOUSLY...

The mutant-hating industrialist Feilong has used Stark Unlimited to produce mutant-hunting Sentinels with Iron Man technology! Tony Stark tried to stop these Stark Sentinels from going into production, but Feilong framed his best friend Rhodey (A.K.A. War Machine) for murder.

Simultaneously, Feilong and the anti-mutant think tank Orchis have forced most of the mutants to flee Earth. Orchis' influence now reaches to the highest positions of power around the world. Tony has teamed up with Emma Frost and the Hellfire Club to take down Feilong and Orchis, going so far as to create an alias for Emma as his new wife, Hazel Kendal!

Tony has a plan to ensure the Resistance's victory, but it comes with a high cost. Ironheart has agreed to oversee construction of an armada that can stand against Feilong's Sentinels, but that kind of mass production requires raw materials, not to mention funds. Luckily, Emma has an answer to both problems.

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IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK & JACK KIRBY

As I was sneaking off the planet in one direction…

…**Ironheart** was making her way off-world with my designs for the ships that would carry the mutants from Arakko to Earth for the invasion.

Riri's armor wasn't cloaked when she boarded the Orchis orbital base, but she was wielding the ten rings of the Mandarin--against my advice.

Still, it was good luck she was so well armed. It allowed her to cause a distraction so she could commence her mission.

Riri took a lot of convincing not to unleash the full power of the Mandarin's rings against Orchis.

I wasn't ready to retake Earth, and neither were the mutants.

Part of me wonders if I asked Ironheart to leave the planet because I was worried she would be corrupted by the rings…

…I couldn't afford to fight another war.

IRONHEART TO IRON MAN ON SECURE CHANNEL. I'VE GOT A SHUTTLE AND I'M BOUNCING...

...WISH ME LUCK.

WELCOME TO GAMEWORLD!

INDEED. WE ALL KNOW THE PLAN?

YES, BUT HOW MARRIED ARE YOU?

TO THE *PLAN*, OF COURSE.

ANTHONY AND I WILL GET CLOSE AND YOU PROVIDE THE DISTRACTION...

...QUICK IN AND OUT. YOU'RE USED TO THAT, RIGHT?

YOU SLAY ME, FROST.

I'M SUFFERING PERFORMANCE ISSUES, TONY.

SHE'S NOT FALLING FOR YOUR SHTICK, STARFOX... AND WE ALWAYS WANT WHAT WE CANNOT HAVE.

I AM DEVASTATED.

;SIGH; VERY WELL, I'M OFF TO GET INTO CHARACTER.

SORRY, EMMA. I SHOULD'VE WARNED YOU ABOUT... STARFOX'S ABILITY TO CHARM--

--OR LACK THEREOF.

AND THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE--I'M A SAPIOSEXUAL, ANTHONY.

HIS FREE LOVE CLAPTRAP WILL FIND NO PURCHASE WITH ME.

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM EAT SO MUCH CRAP BEFORE, AND IT'S REALLY ENJOYABLE.

ABOUT THE MYSTERIUM DEPOSITS--ARE YOU SURE THEY'RE HERE?

YES, THEY WERE DELIVERED TO THE CASINO BY THE X-MEN AS A BANK OF SORTS FOR MOVING THE MYSTERIUM WHERE IT NEEDED TO GO.

NOW I SUPPOSE WE WAIT IN THIS ELEVATOR FOR THE SIGNAL FROM HORNFOX?

DING!

STARFOX.

OH CRAP.

WELL, THIS LOOKS QUITE DREADFUL.

SEEMS THERE'S ALREADY A HEIST IN MID-PROGRESS.

PUT THE GUNS DOWN! NOBODY'S LEAVING WITH THE MYSTERIUM!

IT AIN'T WORTH YOUR LIFE... WHAT IS GAMEWORLD PAYING YOU TO PROTECT IT?

YOU CAN WALK BACK TO YOUR SHIP, OR WE CAN PUT YOU HOOF-FIRST OUT THE AIR LOCK. YOUR CHOICE, PIRATE FILTH.

THAT'S IT-- KILL 'EM ALL!

GET BEHIND ME.

PLEASE. MOST OF THEM HAVE PSI-BLOCKERS-- BUT SOME OF THE PIRATES *DON'T.*

BWEEM!

BWEEM!

ZZZZZ

YOU TUCK THEM IN, I'LL SET FOR STUN.

BZZT!

AAUHH-- NNG!

I'M STARTING TO WORRY ABOUT CATCHING A STRAY, SO I THINK I WILL GET HARD.

THEN... JUST LOOK FABULOUS--

--AND I'LL DO THE STUNNING!

THE GLOVES ARE OFF, DARLING.

ZARK!

UGHN...

LET'S MOVE QUICKLY. THEY'LL BE ORNERY WHEN THEY AWAKE.

OHHHHHH... I WAS LOOKING FOR SICK BAY AND GOT LOST.

I WASN'T DUE FOR ANOTHER CYCLE, BUT I FEAR THE BABY IS COMING AND--

EROS--

--WE ALREADY SORTED ALL THE UNPLEASANTNESS.

GRAND. AND WHAT CAN I DO?

HELP US LOAD THE MYSTERIUM.

I HOPE IT'S ENOUGH.

I'LL START THE ROBOTS UP.

The mysterium would turn out to be enough, and the secret of how to shape it would reside firmly in the hands of the angels.

Only myself, Ironheart and the X-Men's Forge would walk away from our war with that knowledge.

We sent most of the mutant metal with Starfox for the construction of the ships and kept enough for me to forge the Mark 72 out of it.

STOP WORRYING, TONY. I'LL HAVE YOUR METAL TO THE DWARVES.

STARFOX, IF YOU *DON'T* GET THIS METAL TO THE DWARVEN SMITHS AND IRONHEART... EARTH WILL FALL.

I'M ON IT.

CHILL, BROTHER. CHILL.

HAPPY TRAILS.

BWEEEM

WELCOME BACK, MS. KENDAL. YOUR *ASSOCIATES* WERE QUITE INTERESTING.

THANK T'PRAG THEY'RE BACK. I THOUGHT I'D PERISH OF BOREDOM.

YOU WERE RIGHT-- SHE IS A *PERFECT* ME.

WE PORTRAYED RICH, BEAUTIFUL HUMAN CELEBRITIES. IF YOU ENJOYED OUR PERFORMANCE, PLEASE BOOK US AGAIN.

THOUGH WOULD IT BE TOO MUCH TO GET TO ASSASSINATE SOMEONE?

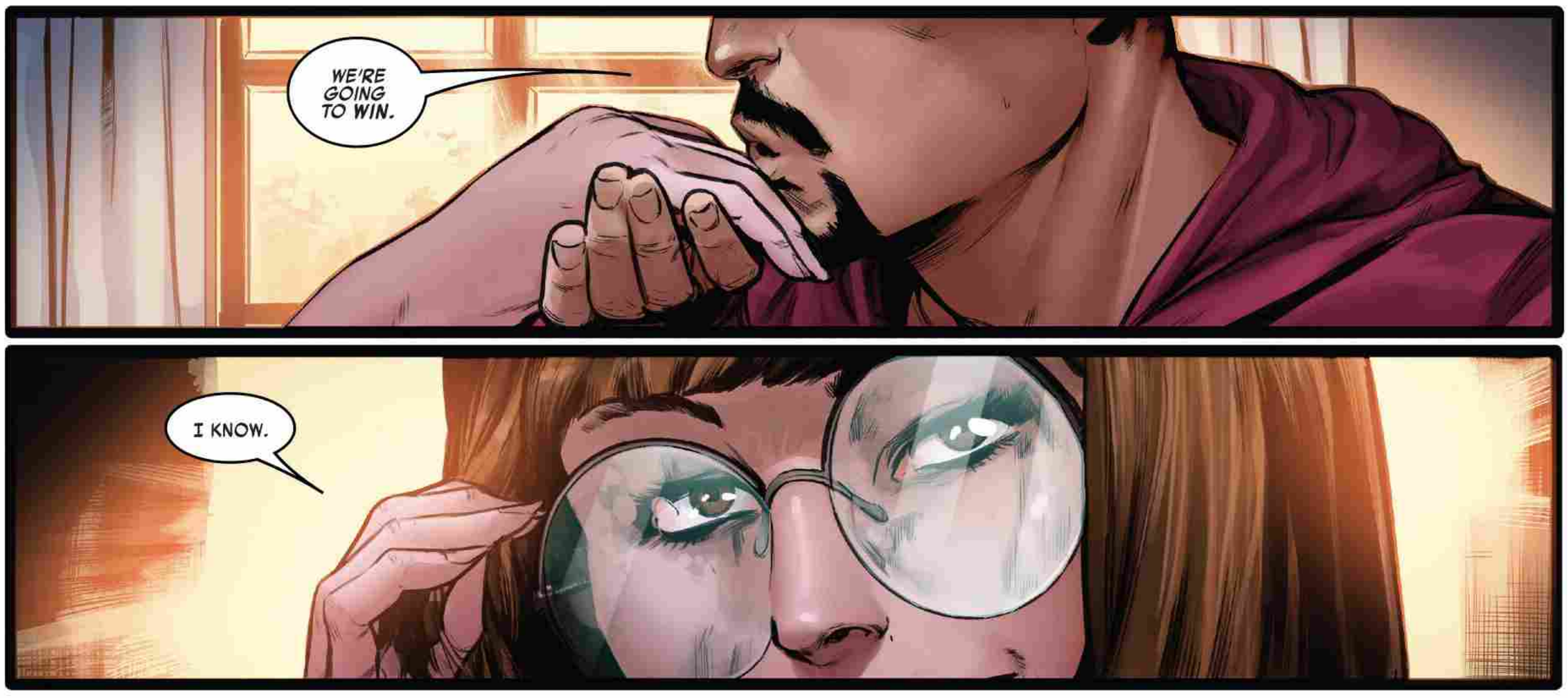
HERE IS PROOF OF OUR DECEPTIONS.

OH MY.

BUGLE
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER
of kisses
over the ci

BE SEEING YOU, IRON MAN.

THOSE SPACE-FARING LIZARD ASSASSINS WERE A BETTER US THAN WE ARE.
I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO SKATE AT ROCKEFELLER CENTER.
EMMA.


WE'RE GOING TO WIN.
I KNOW.

WITH OUR DUMPSTER-FIRE LIVES BOUNCING AROUND THIS WORLD AND BEYOND, I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN IT WAS THE HOLIDAYS.

SAME, IN ALL HONESTY.

YOU KNOW, BEING MARRIED ISN'T SO BAD. THIS BEATS BEING LOCKED AWAY IN AN ARMOR ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY? SHOULD I HAVE ASKED YOUR FATHER BEFORE PROPOSING TO YOU?

ANTHONY, MY FATHER WAS A MONSTER WHO RUINED EVERYONE AROUND HIM...ESPECIALLY MY MOTHER.

DOESN'T RING A BELL.

I just let myself enjoy that night. The days ahead would be difficult and joyless.

I still don't know what to call what happened next. Maybe it was lady luck, or maybe it was mutant magic or both.

Riri was in deep space on her way to rendezvous with the mysterium when her road got a little bit easier.

DEET DEET

HOW IS THERE ANOTHER SHIP ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?

WHAT THE HELL...?

WHO IS THAT? A COSMIC ROADIE OR SOMETHING?

HIYA! HEY. YOU'RE FROM EARTH, AREN'T YOU?

SUPER COOL. MY NAME IS **FORGE**--I'M ON THE X-MEN.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF THE X-MEN?

BY THE BY-- I ALMOST BLEW YOU AWAY--SAW THAT ORCHIS LOGO, BUT THEN I THOUGHT I'D BETTER KEEP MY POWDER DRY.

YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHAT FLAGS YOU FLY OUT HERE.

OF COURSE I'VE HEARD OF THE X-MEN--BUT HOW DID YOU GET OUT INTO SPACE? AND WHAT IS THIS JUNKY SHIP?

YEAH, PRETTY RAD, RIGHT? I BUILT A SEXTANT. TAKES ME WHEREVER I NEED TO BE.

HOW'S THAT WORK?

OH, I HAVE NO IDEA.

YEAH, I KNOW. REALLY ANNOYING, ESPECIALLY FOR FELLOW ENGINEERS.

WHAT?! Y-YOU'RE THE GUY WHO MADE THE KRAKOAN GATES AND THAT TREEHOUSE, AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

I LIKE YOUR SUIT. IT'S HOMEMADE. I CAN TELL.

FIRST OF ALL, YES, I DID MAKE THIS SUIT. SECOND, IT'S NOT "HOMEMADE" LIKE THIS CAVE-MAN SPACESHIP.

WHOEVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE ANNOYING WAS RIGHT.

MY OLD GIRLFRIEND WAS ALWAYS RIGHT. THAT WAS HER TRUE MUTANT POWER.

IS... IS STORM ALIVE?

OH MY GOD. YOU DATED STORM?!

I LOVE HER, WHAT'S SHE LIKE?

YOU THERE!

SKRUNK!

I SMELL THE TRAPPED SOULS OF MY MAKLUAN BRETHREN-- WRAPPED AROUND YOUR FINGERS IN WHAT YOU CALL "THE MANDARIN RINGS."

THERE ARE NO MANDARIN RINGS HERE, BUDDY. SO MOVE ALONG! RIGHT?!

UH.

OH CRAP.

NEXT: HERE BE MANDARIN RINGS!

#14: THE HAMMER FALLS!

Tony Stark needs more than an armor to defeat Orchis, he needs an army. Can Ironheart build one in time? Who will answer the call?

EMAIL US AT **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** AND MARK "**OKAY TO PRINT**"!

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KAMIC RIDER

MARIKA